



**KING COUNTY
MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD
ALCOHOLISM AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD**

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Wednesday, August 28, 2002

4:00-5:30 PM

Conference Room 6A, Exchange Building
821 2nd Ave., Seattle, WA 98104

Meeting Minutes

Attending:

Ron Sterling (KCMHAB)

Howard Miller (KCMHAB)

Jim Harbaugh (KCASAAB)

Linda Brown (KCASAAB)

Alice Howell (KCMHAB)

Eleanor Owen (Co-Chair/KCMHAB)

Bob Seidensticker (KCASAAB)

Roger Goodman (Co-Chair/KCASAAB)

Absent:

Pam Dietrick (KCASAAB)

Mindy Meyring (KCMHAB)

Clifford Thurston (KCMHAB)

Staff: Geoff Miller, Sherry Hamilton

I. Introductions/Announcements

Introductions and announcements were made. Sherry Hamilton announced that she would no longer be staffing the meetings and would be replaced by Amnon Shoenfeld beginning with the September meeting.

II. Review and Approval of July 24, 2002 Meeting Minutes

Minutes were approved as written. Howard Miller suggested that we note on the next and subsequent meeting minutes that those absent be noted as absent.

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III. 2002 Action Plan – Legislative Advocacy and Outreach

- Updates: Outreach to legislators, community partners, stakeholders

Eleanor Owen noted that she had met with Sen. Frank Chopp, and Sen. Thibadeau. Both legislators voice concern over the lack of funding available, but would be willing to attend meetings such as brown bags or educational meetings.

- Assignments/Next Steps – outreach and engagement

It was noted that meeting with legislators would be easier after specific issues were identified and approved by the boards.

IV. Community Legislative Forum

It was suggested to add other sponsors that agree with the need for additional treatment and mental health services. Roger agreed to ask if the King County Bar Association and the Medical Association would be interested in both co-sponsoring as well as helping assure a large attendance.

- Prepare 1st Draft: Legislative Priorities for 2003

A draft of the Legislative Priorities will need to be available for presentation and discussion at the joint boards meeting on September 13, 2002.

- Discussion: Ideas for presentation of 2003 Legislative Priorities

The assignment and next steps were discussed and it was noted that the legislators have already heard most of the arguments that have been made about saving money and the value of the treatment delivered.

Roger noted that sentencing reform was not based on reason and evidence as much as the political reality of the budget deficit; that reality continues into the next legislative session.

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Prescription drug reform was discussed. It was asked if there would be an initial savings to the state. Eleanor noted that that information was available and that the major cost would be administrative, but the saving would begin immediately. Linda noted that the use of the savings would be an important issue, and that we should work with the legislators to earmark some of the savings for those programs that create the savings. This is especially important for the chemical dependency programs, since evidence of treatment saving significant money has been documented.

County issues were discussed. It was noted that the council is considering proposals that would continue a portion of the CHAT funding for chemical dependency treatment.

It was noted that some discussion about reorganizing the Department of Corrections was occurring. The group agreed that the cuts should not cut the current level of treatment that is occurring within the DOC, and we should encourage legislators to continue all treatment.

Three points emerged from the discussions to use as legislative priorities:

1. Prescription drug reform is worthwhile and needs to be done this legislative session.
2. Savings generated from reductions and reforms need to be partially reinvested in those programs that work and that will generate more savings (e.g. mental health and chemical dependency treatment and prevention).
3. Mental Health is completing a prevalence study. There is a need for a prevalence study to be done in chemical dependency this legislative session, following the principle that the “dollars should follow the client.”

- **Assignments/Next Steps**

Geoff will draft the language for the legislative priorities based on the discussion at today’s meeting and forward them to Roger for initial review. After initial review, the draft will be forwarded to the Committee for review prior to the joint boards meeting.

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Staff will help the Boards and the Committee identify those agencies adversely affected by the current proposed budget and those programs with the best track records that deserve reinvestment.

V. Public Affairs Plan

- Discussion: Draft Public Affairs Action Plan was added to the agenda items for the September 25, 2002 meeting

VI. Set Agenda for September 25, 2002

For information call Geoff Miller, King County Mental health , chemical Abuse and Dependency Services Division (206) 205-1136 or Sherry Hamilton, King County Department of Community and Human Services at (206) 205-1324.

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